

Oct. 15-21 is Federal Radon Action Week. Health agencies in the U.S. have joined forces to promote awareness of the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

The American Lung Association, Centers for Disease Control, and National Cancer Institute agree that radon is a national health problem and encourage radon testing during October's awareness drive.

Radon is a naturally-occurring, invisible and odorless radioactive gas. One in 15 American homes contains high levels of radon. Millions of Americans are unknowingly exposed to this dangerous gas. A recent study by Harvard University ranks radon as America's number one in-home hazard. Homeowners can avoid this hazard.

Radon gas is not isolated to certain geographical areas or home types. Problems have been detected in homes in every county of the U.S. It caused more American fatalities last year than carbon monoxide, fires, and handguns combined! If a home hasn't been tested for radon in the past two years, EPA and the surgeon general urge homeowners to take action. Contact the state radon office to locate test kits or qualified radon testers.

The federal commitment focuses efforts on radon reduction and mitigation in homes, especially those of low income families, many of whom do not have the resources to make the simple fixes necessary to protect their homes and loved ones.